

**THE ROUNDTABLE ON FOI  
And Media Regulatory Laws**

21<sup>st</sup> June Saturday  
Awari Hotel Lahore  
10:30am to 2:00pm



**Schedule**

Roundtable was held for the Editors, Columnist, Representatives o civil Society and Senior Journalist of the leading newspapers and TV Channels of Lahore in Awari Hotel, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008.

**Objective**

Prime object was to uphold the inherent right of the public to have access to information and news; we are working on a study report on Freedom of Information. We wish to incorporate the

views & experiences of the media community and also to formulate good recommendations for the improvement of media journalism in Pakistan.

#### Resource Persons

- 1- Ms. Misbah Saboohi

#### Project Coordinator

Mr. Muhammad Wajih Akhtar

#### Presentations

In the first half of the Dialogue Misbah Saboohi, the media consultant presented the multimedia presentation on Freedom of Information Ordinance 2002 and Media Regulatory laws. **She over view of the laws effecting media environment in Pakistan e.g. Freedom of Information law 2002, Defamation Ordinance 2002, Contempt Of Court Ordinance 2002 and PEMRA Laws.**

During her presentation she said that Government puts restrictions on freedom of the press in the name of national security, public order or other legitimate concerns of the state. However public's right to know cannot be curbed if fair, neutral and truthful reporting is done by the journalists.

Afterwards forum went open for the open discussion; all of the participants shared their experiences.

#### List of Participants

Sr. #	Name	Organization
1	Mr. Khalid Butt	Pakistan Observer
2	Mr. Atta Ul Haq Qasmi	Columnist Daily Jang
3	Mr. Mujeeb Ul Rehman Shami	Daily Pakistan
4	Ms. Sadia Salahudin	The News
5	Mr. Isar Rana	Duniyan TV
6	Mr. Qudrat Ullah Ch.	Daily Pakistan
7	Mr. Sohail Waraich	GEO / Jang
8	Mr. Aftab Iqbal	Nawa e Waqt
9	Mr. Haroon Adeem	Daily Din
10	Mr. Absar Abdul Ali	PIP
11	Ms. Mumtaz Bano	Daily Aajkal
12	Ms. Fatima Fayyaz	Institute of Communications
13	Mr. Samuel Bhatti	Daily Leader
14	Mr. Hassan Abbas	Business Recorder
15	Mr. Zaheer Shehzad	The Post
16	Ms. Samia Ijaz	Daily Leader
17	Mr. Zameer Afaqi	Daily Pakistan
18	Mr. Nafees Tahir	NNI
19	Ms. Farah Hashmi	Star Asia TV

## Participant's Feedback

During the roundtable participants expressed their experiences and their reservations regarding the media laws especially freedom of information ordinance 2002, and PEMRA ordinance. They said there are many loop holes in the current media laws, there are not defined terminologies used by authorities such as public interests and national interests in freedom of information ordinance 2002 should be clearly define.

They claimed that the journalists are not being provided access to the information. They said that there should be some awareness among the people about the defamation laws apart from making it the part of curriculum of mass communications. Such dialogues are highly required for the students of mass communications so that they can learn the best practices of journalism.

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